
Ventura County Master Gardener Monthly Checklist

November 2025

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

- ✓ Useful information about native plants, mulch, and other topics is available in this month's newsletter. [Click here to link to it on our website](#) or sign up to receive it monthly by [clicking here](#).
- ✓ Read up on natives at <https://www.calscape.org/>
- ✓ Acorns will be happy to germinate now. Water them well and protect from pests.
- ✓ Sow seeds and pull weeds. Plant where soil is moist and not soaked.
- ✓ Good time to cut and propagate hardwood cuttings, like salvias.

GROWING FOOD

- ✓ Not sure how to get started? Try one of the many food growing classes we offer this month. [See the list here](#).
- ✓ Sow winter vegetables: leafy greens and root vegetables (artichokes, beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, chard, cauliflower, celery, collards, endive, favas, kale, Kohl Rabi, leeks, lettuce, mustard, onions (short day), parsley, parsnip, peas, radish, rutabaga, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips)
- ✓ Establish perennial herbs like, sweet marjoram, chives, oregano, rosemary, thyme, Italian parsley and purple sage. Harvest through winter.
- ✓ Plant cloves of garlic by the end of this month.
- ✓ Established lavender and rosemary can be pruned deeply.

PLANTS AND FLOWERS

- ✓ Cut back any tropical milkweed that you may have in your garden. A parasite of this plant can lower the migration success of the Monarch butterfly. Plant native milkweed, and [use this resource to determine which species are native to your area](#).
- ✓ Seeds – Time to scatter wildflower seeds in empty pots and bare soil spots in your yard, soil weeded and amended. Baby blue eyes, marigold, golden dyssodia, CA poppy, blue or purple tansy, and clarkia.
- ✓ Roses – Stop watering and feeding. Mulch them with manure and compost. You can start to prune but only lightly. Save deep pruning for January.
- ✓ Cool-season annual flowers to plant – Calendula, marigold, cornflower, primrose, pansy, snapdragon, and sweet alyssum.
- ✓ Bulbs – to plant, amaryllis, anemone, daffodils, Dutch iris, freesia, gladiolus, lilies, ranunculus, tritonia and Watson.
- ✓ Divide irises, coral bells.

TREES & SHRUBS

- ✓ If you haven't deep watered your established trees since summer, do it now.
- ✓ Deep water fall-planted trees and shrubs, to establish good roots, unless rain is in forecast.
- ✓ Seeds of woody perennials can be started now; coyote bush, giant buckwheat, and Salvia purple sage.

TOOL CARE

- ✓ Clean and sanitize tools, all metal parts (sharpen or replace blades)
- ✓ Rub wooden handles with linseed oil. Store in dry place.
- ✓ Here is an article on tool care. <https://ucanr.edu/blog/spill-beans/article/care-garden-tools>

INSECTS, PESTS & WEEDS

- ✓ Control slugs and snails with organic, pet/animal friendly and food safe bait.
- ✓ When planting bulbs, protect with wire gopher baskets.
- ✓ Look out for Bagrada bugs. Look them up on the UC IMP Pest Note: Bagrada Bug, for latest control information. <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/home-and-landscape/bagrada-bug/#gsc.tab=0>
- ✓ Powdery Mildew is best controlled by rinsing leaves of mildew in the morning; however, prevention is best by not letting leaves get wet in the first place. If mildew is bad, cut most infected leaves and throw away to stop the spread. Do not add to compost pile.
- ✓ Visit www.CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org for information on HLB and the ACP pest
- ✓ White alyssum is a host plant for the beneficial hoverfly. Planting it near citrus may help in controlling the insect that vectors the deadly HLB disease.
- ✓ For all pest advice - Visit www.ipm.ucanr.edu

WATER, AIR, SOIL, & FIRE

- ✓ The days are shorter now, so you should be applying the same amount of water, but LESS often. Check the soil moisture before running those irrigation lines. Turn off for large rains or add a rain sensor to your irrigation controller.
- ✓ Cover part of the lawn with cardboard or newspapers if you wish to add a garden bed next season. Add manure under the cardboard and you will be ready to plant next spring. Here's a couple of approved sites <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/news/break-up-with-your-lawn-using-cardboard>
- ✓ <https://ucanr.edu/sites/default/files/2020-03/221117.pdf>
- ✓ If you haven't already, it's a good time to amend your soil in the fall for a productive spring garden. Recipe for good soil: organic amendments and all-purpose fertilizer; unless you're planting natives, natives don't like fertilizer!
- ✓ Spread manure, aged manure only. Fresh manure will burn plants. Compost and mulch throughout your garden to jump start Spring growth.
- ✓ Take a free Drip Irrigation class